(c) Non-receipt of full or additional information from the applicant and requirement of inter-Ministerial consultations are the main reasons of pendency.

Amendment of Cable Television Networks Regulation Act

1696. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal from the Maharashtra Government regarding amendment of the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act, 1995 is pending with the Ministry;

(b) whether it is a fact that the lacunae in the Act has made it possible for a cable operation to be used for assisting terrorist activities; and

(c) the difficulties in approving the proposal and by when the proposal would be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However the Government has noted certain aberrations in the live coverage of the operations conducted by security forces during the 26/11 terrorist attacks in Mumbai thereby endangering the locations, movements, etc. of security forces. The Ministry has issued a directive to all the News and Current Affairs TV channels on 27.11.2008 so as not to broadcast the movement, location, numbers, strategy and other operational details of the security forces as the TV coverage is likely to jeopardize the operations mounted by the security forces. The TV channels were also issued an advisory on 3rd December 2008 in this regard.

(c) The amendment of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 in the light of the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India regarding "restructuring of cable services" received by the Government are under consideration of the Government. The proposal of the State Government will also be taken into consideration while deciding the matter. No time frame could be given in such policy matters.

Working of Fast Track Courts

1697. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fast Track Courts (FTCs) have been able to help expeditious disposal of criminal cases, that require early disposal;

(b) if so, the number of cases settled by FTCs, so far;

(c) the number of additional FTCs proposed to be constituted in 2009-10; and

(d) the types of cases which are referred to FTCs?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) Fast Track Courts have been set up for expeditious disposal of long pending cases in the Sessions Courts and

the cases of undertrial prisoners. As per the reports received from the State Governments/High Courts upto March, 2009, 25,10,211 cases have been disposed of by the Fast Track Courts.

(c) and (d) Fast Track Courts are set-up by the State Governments in consultation with the respective High Courts depending upon the need. Respective High Court decide the types of cases to be transferred to Fast Track Courts.

Tribunals for cheque bounce cases

1698. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, after insertion of sections 138 to 147 in the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1981 pertaining to dishonor of cheques the court rooms are flooded with cases in the lower courts all over the country, which were already over-burdened, resulting in delay in justice, as a whole;

(b) if so, whether Government is planning to establish a separate tribunal to handle such cases, not only for speedy trial, but also for concerned and effective justice; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) Most of the High Courts have informed that there are a large number of cases related to bouncing of cheques pending in the courts under their jurisdiction. There is no proposal at present to establish a separate Tribunal to handle such cases, the 18th Law Commission in its 213th Report has also not made any such recommendation.

Fast Track Courts for cheque bounce cases

1699. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 18th Law Commission, headed by Justice A.R. Lakshmanan, has recommended for setting up of Fast Track courts, to dispose of over 38 lakh cases of cheque bouncing;

(b) whether the Commission has also suggested an amendment to Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, to compel the drawer of a bounced cheque to pay 50 per cent of the amount on receipt of summons; and

(c) if so, the action proposed by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) The 18th Law Commission, headed by Justice A.R. Lakshmanan, has recommended for setting up of Fast Track Courts of Magistrates to dispose of the dishonoured cheque cases under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.